

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. GEJDENSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GEJDENSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

RECOGNITION AND COMPENSATION FOR FILIPINO VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, in my district, on June 14, at MacArthur Park, located in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, three brave, elderly, former soldiers renewed a battle first begun in World War II.

In an unprecedented display of determination, Percy Javellana, age 74, Angel De La Cruz, age 71, and Orcencio Salem, age 71, chained themselves to the statue of their former commander, General Douglas MacArthur. They have vowed to remain there for 24 hours a day in protest of our Government's denial of benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II.

Mr. De La Cruz took his personal sacrifice one step further by beginning a hunger strike he has promised will not end until Federal legislation to restore these promised benefits is enacted.

Let there be no mistake, their symbolic act of protest, which is gaining national media attention, is not merely motivated by a desire for monetary compensation. Instead, their struggle is about honor, dignity, and respect for their sacrifices as soldiers. More importantly, it is about the moral obligation of our Government to live up to its promises once made.

In 1941, recognizing the critical strategic value of the Philippines to the allied forces, President Roosevelt called upon Filipino soldiers and civilians to join United States forces in retaking the Philippines. In exchange for their volunteer military service, they were promised pay and benefits equal to that provided to United States troops.

In response, during almost 4 years of the most intense and critically important phases of World War II, more than 200,000 Filipinos fought side by side with allied forces and won a strategic forward position vital to our success in the Pacific Theater.

Willingly, these brave men sacrificed their well-being and their lives in defense of freedom. They fought, believing in our country's promise that they would earn the right to the same compensation and benefits given to American men and women with whom they

fought side by side in defense of the free world.

To the ultimate shame of our Nation, not one promise was honored. Instead, in 1946, the United States Congress passed legislation severely restricting the veterans' benefits that members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the Special Scouts could receive. Ever since that betrayal, Filipino veterans and their survivors have fought an uphill battle to restore these hard-earned benefits.

In their support, I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 836, a bipartisan bill introduced by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] to extend full benefits to these Philippine veterans.

I support not only its passage but the efforts of the Filipino veterans to have congressional hearings to illuminate the unkept promises and the impact it has had on the lives of these aging veterans.

As our Nation focuses increased attention on World War II through the creation of a memorial recognizing the contributions of all World War II veterans, and as we continue to celebrate the recent dedication of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, a great portion of which focuses on his leadership during the Second World War, there is no better time than now to correct this injustice.

Clearly, the Filipino veterans who fought, bled, and suffered alongside American troops deserve the recognition and compensation they were promised and then denied for over 50 years. I urge my colleagues and the American public to recognize that correcting this injustice is a matter of national honor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. MINGE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MINGE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

REMARKS ON THE RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MFN TRADE STATUS WITH THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you why the resolution to disapprove China's Most-Favored-Nation status

failed today on this House floor. This Congress did its homework and learned from the past how such protectionist action can backfire on a strong nation such as the United States.

The United States has been in a trade posture with China since China's trade liberalization policies in the early 1980's, with the exception of the period after the Tiananmen Square incident when China briefly retreated into a period of isolation.

Historically, China has taken protectionist action against the rest of the world. During the period from 246 to 209 B.C., China built the "Great Wall" to defend its northern frontier against outsiders. Now, the wall serves no purpose except as a tourist attraction. In the 1950's China's inward-oriented development policies culminated in the Great Leap Forward, a disastrous attempt to create a self-sufficient economy. That failed as well.

Today, China is experiencing the Great Awakening, where a plan for enterprise reform, trade reform, and tax reform as well as a fundamental restructuring of the country's macroeconomic management is being pursued. This kind of action is working.

China's economy is booming, and the United States is taking advantage of our trade relations to boost our own economy.

America was built not only on the ideal of freedom and democracy, but on the economic base of free enterprise from which such ideals flow. Remember the Boston Tea Party? The Stamp Tax? Only by opening our minds and our markets can we help China reform its human rights policies, its intellectual property rights infringements, and its arms sales. Should we turn our heads to these practices? Certainly not. Should we have turned our back on them? Certainly not. Only through continuous engagement in dialogue will we have an opportunity to affect change.

From 1990 to 1996, U.S. exports to China rose by 90 percent, the fastest growth rate of any major export market. This has been a direct benefit to Southern California given its recovery from a recession.

China's economy is expected to be the world's largest by the year 2012. We cannot afford to turn our backs on the opportunities offered through trade with China, particularly in light of the higher paying jobs directly supported by trade opportunities. That is the kind of protectionist action that would isolate the United States from the incredible market that is China. That would be cutting off our nose to spite our face.

China is in need of 750 billion dollars' worth of infrastructure, most of which they will buy from the United States. Those who argued today for the revocation of MFN status by reason of a trade deficit—I ask you, how are we going to reverse the current trade deficit by blocking chances for U.S. export growth? The simple fact is, we cannot.

A full one-quarter of all cargo entering the United States comes from China. My 37th Congressional District benefits from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, two of the biggest ports in the United States. In 1996, the Port of Long Beach alone handled \$15.2 billion in United States-China trade. Companies such as Jackson Aerospace in Gardena, Alson Manufacturing in Compton, and Fisher Forging in Carson are all dependent on continued trade with China to maintain growth in the tremendous aerospace industry within Southern California.